

PSYCHE.

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REARING LEPIDOPTERA.

It will be gratifying to those entomologists who recognise the great importance of the knowledge of the early stages of insect life, to learn of the attention that is being given to this department of study by Mr. S. L. Elliot, of New York City. For the last few years, this gentleman has been indefatigable in his lepidopterological studies, and especially in larval collections and breeding from the egg. Fortunate in the ability to devote his entire time to the work, and actuated by an enthusiasm that scarcely recognises the need of any respite from the absorbing "labor of love"—very valuable and important results have already followed his labors. The life-histories of a number of rare species have been worked out. New species have been discovered, and so-called species shown to be simple varieties. Immense numbers of larvae have been collected and reared upon their food-plants, descriptions of the new forms, with the aid of Mr. Henry Edwards, have been taken, and thousands of perfect insects have been obtained for the cabinets of those who prize perfect forms. His success in carrying lepidoptera

through their winter pupation, by means of a method and appliances devised by himself, has never, we believe, before been equalled. Several thousands of pupæ have been carried through the past winter with scarcely any loss except that unavoidably resulting from parasitic attack. We know of no one else in the United States, who is rearing the larvæ of lepidoptera so successfully and on so large a scale.

J. A. L.

BOOK NOTICES.

It is understood that Mr. Wm. Saunders, of London, Ontario, has in preparation and has nearly completed a volume upon "The Insects of our Fruits and Fruit-trees." The great need of the information that this volume will present, has long been felt, and it is very gratifying to know that the want is soon to be supplied. The larger portion of it is already in type. Much labor has been bestowed upon its preparation to render it as complete as possible and perfectly reliable. It will make a volume, as we learn from the author, of nearly 450 pages. Almost every species noticed will be illustrated, requiring for the purpose over 400 figures. It will be issued by the well known publishing-house of Lippincott & Co., of Philadelphia, in their best style, and will be offered to the public at a price (probably \$3) that will bring it within the reach of all who need it. From the distinguished ability of the author, his familiarity with fruit-culture, and the special efforts made by him to render the volume all that it should be, we are confident that it will prove to be a standard work upon the subject of which it treats, and that it cannot fail of commanding an extensive sale.

J. A. L.

[Mr. Saunders' book has been issued since the above notice was written.]

The third part of the third volume of the Proceedings of the Davenport Academy of Natural Sciences, which came to hand in April, is devoted to the memory of Joseph